

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-3 and 5-11 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

ALL REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC '102 AND '103 - TRAVERSED

All 35 USC rejections are respectfully traversed. However, such rejections have been rendered obsolete by the present clarifying amendments to Applicant's claims, and accordingly, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time. However, Applicant respectfully submits the following to preclude renewal of any such rejections against Applicant's clarified and added claims.

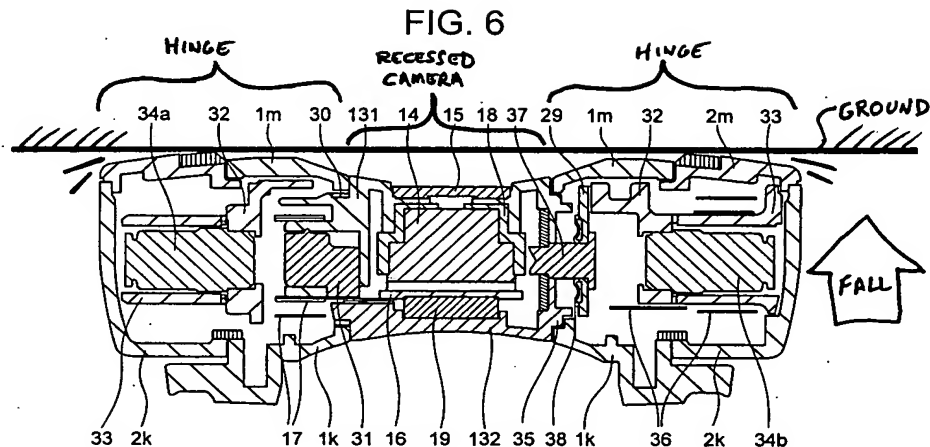
All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated hereat by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are

respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

Unrelated to any prior art rejection, claim 4 has now been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering this rejection of such claims obsolete at this time. Patentability of remaining ones of the rejected claims are supported as follows.

In order to properly support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection, any applied art reference must disclose each and every limitation of any rejected claim. The applied art does not adequately support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection because, at minimum, such applied art does not disclose (or suggest) the following discussed limitations of Applicant's claims.

Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention is directed to providing arrangements for minimizing the potential that a camera portion of portable equipment (e.g., of a portable cell phone) will receive a direct impact when the portable equipment is dropped. Applicant's claimed invention accomplishes the same by recessing a camera casing to be thinner in diameter than surrounding hinge portions. Attention is directed to a marked-up copy of Applicant's FIG. 6 below.



The marked-up FIG. 6 includes a cross-section of Applicant's hinge portion as it has fallen and is at the point of impact against a floor (Note: Fall is shown upside-down). As shown in FIG. 6, the outside diameter of the camera casing is smaller than that of the rotating parts of the left hinge joint portion 3a and the right hinge joint portion 3b, thereby recessing the camera casing and preventing the camera casing from directly bumping against obstacles in case of dropping the portable equipment. That is, while the left and right hinge portions receive direct impacts as a result of the illustrated fall, the recessed camera portion does not.

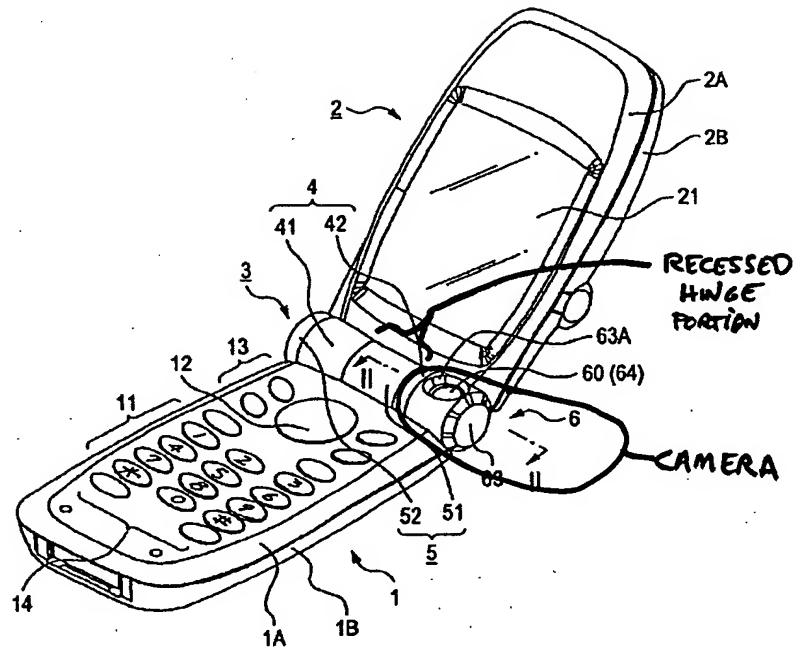
Since the impact applied to the camera unit 12 when the portable equipment is dropped comes through the first casing 1 or second casing 2, an acceleration of the impact is decayed along the way so as to considerably lower impact forces applied to the camera (as compared with a direct impact applied to the camera casing 13). Further, since the camera module 14 is held in place through cushioning members 18 and 19, the impact forces applied to the camera is further reduced, therefore minimizing a potential of impact damage to the camera.

In terms of claim limitations, independent claim 8, for example, recites:

“having an outside diameter of the camera casing set smaller than the predetermined outer diameter of the casing hinge portion.”

Turning now to precluding application of the previously-applied art, none of the applied references (taken alone, or in any combination) would have disclosed or suggested such feature. More particularly, Sato et al. is not a hinged cell phone, but instead, has a camera which pops out of a side of the telephone. Next, a casing holding Kang's camera portion includes approximately half the Kang terminal, and thus is definitely larger than Kang's hinge portion. Finally, Tatehana et al. appears closest to Applicant's invention. However, as shown in the marked-up version of Tatehana et al.'s FIG. 1 shown below, Tatehana et al.'s recessed hinge portion is definitely thinner than Tatehana et al.'s camera portion. Thus, it can be seen that Tatehana et al., in fact, teaches away from Applicant's invention.

FIG. 1



In addition to the foregoing, the following additional remarks from Applicant's foreign representative are also submitted in support of traversal of the rejection and patentability of Applicant's claims.

As to Differences between the Invention and References:

Tatehana discloses, as shown in Fig. 3, a mobile terminal device comprising the camera portion provided on one side of the hinging part for connecting the upper case with the lower case.

However, the features of "said camera casing provided between said multiple joints" and "a diameter of a rotation shaft of said camera casing is set smaller than

the outer diameters of said multiple joints”, as recited in Claim 3, are not disclosed in the reference.

With the above structure of the joints and camera portion, even if the mobile terminal is dropped, the invention has achieved the particular effect that it can prevent the camera portion from directly impinging obstacles.

Similarly, Kang and Sato do not disclose the above structure at all.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art would not support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection or '103 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such '102 and '103 rejections, and express written allowance of all of the rejected claims, are respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any

objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.42925X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Skwierawski".

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